development of market linkages, processing, packaging etc. Besides, projects for development of marketing infrastructure and marketing linkages are being sanctioned to the States/DRDAs under SGSY Special Projects.

As part of marketing initiatives, the Ministry organizes exhibition and sale of rural products in SARAS pavilion of the India International Trade fare every year. Provision of electricity and electronic services does not come under the purview of the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) While targets have been fixed only under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the budgetary allocation depend on the availability of resorces.

The Ministry has developed a comprehensive multi-level and multi-tool system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the rural development schemes, including utilization of funds.

Reducing poverty in the country

4941. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of record food production during the past years, the number of people living Below Poverty Line has not decreased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) action contemplated to address the root causes for the prevailing economic condition of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development implements schemes for employment generation, housing, rural connectivity, watershed development, drinking water supply and sanitation in the rural areas of the country.

Production ofinternational grade hybrid Silk

4942. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been successful to produce international grade hybrid silk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to patent the new hybrid silk worm varieties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Central Silk Board (CSB) has been successful in evolving bivoltine hybrids capable of yielding international grade silk with the technical assistance of Japan International Co-Operation Agency

(JICA). 6 bivoltine silkworm hybrids *viz.*, CSR2 × CSR4, CSR2 × CSR5, CSR12 × CSR6, CSR 18 × CSR19, CSR16 × CSR17 and CRS3 × CSR6 from CSR races and few multi × Bivoltine Hybrid from BL series have been authorised for commercial exploitation.

(c) Presently, no system exists for patenting of live materials including silkworm hybrids. CSB has however, developed a mechanism of registration of newly evolved silkworm hybrids on the lines of National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), ICAR, New Delhi.

Status of Textiles Industry

†4943. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the condition of textiles industry in the country, the number of textile mills which have been closed down and the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to reopen these mills;

(c) the number of workers become unemployed as a result of their closure; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for the upliftment of the small textile weavers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) to (c) The condition of the textile industry in the country in terms of production of fibre, yarn, fabrics and exports is given in statement (*See* below). As on 31st December, 464 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) having 3.80 lakh workers on roll were lying closed for various reasons as explained below :—

Reasons of Closure	No. of mills lying closed
Financial Difficulties	292
Strike/Labour Problems	65
Lockout	23
Other Reasons	84
TOTAL	464

As regards, sick mills which may or may not be closed, Government has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 with a view to arranging the timely

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.